

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:454

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF PATIENTS . MOHAMMED FAIZAL

Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) The present institutional mechanism in place for emergency evacuation of patients from Lakshadweep Islands to mainland for specialised treatment;
- (b) Whether the Government proposes to introduce a comprehensive medical evacuation coverage including Air Ambulances for residents of Lakshadweep Islands;
- (c) If so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be introduced and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen health infrastructure and services in Lakshadweep Islands?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 454 FOR 8th AUGUST, 2014

(a): The UT Administration of Lakshadweep has informed that the patients, who are not manageable in the respective health facilities, are evacuated to either Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavaratti or Rajiv Gandhi Specialty Hospital, Agatti by arranging special sortie of helicopters/Ferry vessels during fair season. When the patients are not manageable in these Institutions, they are evacuated to mainland by arranging special sortie of helicopter.

(b) and (c) : The UT Administration of Lakshadweep has informed that an amount of Rs. 51.50 Lakhs has been sought under various programmes of NHM in the year 2014-15 for medical evacuation coverage/referral transport services. Besides, Expression of Interest floated and Tender document is in process for introducing the Health Insurance Scheme for the poor people of Lakshadweep.

(d): Repeated notification issued by the Lakshadweep administration to fill up the post of specialists on contract basis did not get positive response. However, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is deputing specialists in the disciplines of Gynecology, Anesthesia, Pathology Surgery and Pediatric each for a period of 90 days to Lakshadweep. All lifesaving Medicines and Equipment are made available and UT Administration is taking sincere and earnest actions to strengthen the medical facilities.